

Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-11 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 EA-11 ARA-16 ACDA-19 /197 W

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R 200920Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL DOUALA

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0493

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EK, SP, LE

SUBJECT: GOEG EXPELLS LEBANESE HON. CONSUL AND SPANISH EMBASSY
EMPLOYEE

REF: (A) DOUALA 047; (B) YAOUNDE 0492

1. SUMMARY: WITH INCREASING PRESSURE BEING BROUGHT TO BEAR
AGAINST THEIR INTERESTS BY EQUATORIAL GUINEAN AUTHORITIES AND
GROWING INFLUENCE, AS THEY SEE IT, OF SOVIET, CUBAN AND CHINESE,
IT APPEARS THAT THE SPANISH ARE BEGINNING TO FALTER IN THEIR
PREVIOUS INTENTIONS TO HANG ON IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA AT ALMOST
ANY PRICE. EXPLUSION OF SPANISH EMBASSY EMPLOYEE AND
LEBANESE HONORARY CONSUL CAUSES NEW STRAINS IN THOSE RELATIONS
AND HAS PROVIDED SPANISH WITH EXCUSE TO CLOSE DOWN
BATA OFFICE.

2. SMALL CONSULAR CORPS IN BATA WAS INVITED TO PRESIDENTIAL
SPEECH IN BATA ON 12 FEBRUARY FOLLOWING ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT
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MACIAS IN PORT ABOARD SOVIET MISSILE CRUISER. FOLLOWING THE

CEREMONY, NOTES WHICH SPANISH EMBASSY EMPLOYEE, JUAN CANO, AND HONORARY LEBANESE CONSUL NAUFFAL HAD TAKEN OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH WERE SEIZED AND BOTH WERE TOLD TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

3. EXPLANATIONS GIVEN SPANISH AMBASSADOR BY GOEG CENTERED ON FACT THAT TWO, WHO WERE SEATED TOGETHER, HAD TAKEN NOTES AND MADE GESTURES, EVIDENTLY DISTURBING THE PRESIDENT. IN REACTION TO THE EXPLUSION SPANISH AMBASSADOR VISITED BATA ON 15 FEBRUARY TO CLOSE DOWN EMBASSY OFFICE MAINTAINED THERE BY CANO.

4. EXPULSION OF SPANIARD PROBABLY RELATED TO PRESIDENTIAL PIQUE AT FACT THAT SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO ISSUE VISA TO NEMESIO ABAGA OBURU, NAMED AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT THE EQUATORIAL GUINEAN EMBASSY IN MADRID. THE SPANISH ARE AWARE THAT ABAGA, WHO WAS FIRST SECRETARY AND SUBSEQUENTLY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN E.G. EMBASSY IN YAOUNDE, ENGINEERED KIDNAPPING OF OPPOSITIONIST LEADER JOVINO MBU FROM YAOUNDE IN EARLY 1973. AND THAT HE APPARENTLY NAMED TO MADRID TO EXERCISE FIRMER CONTROL OVER SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF EQUATORIAL GUINEANS IN SPAIN.

5. EXPULSION OF NAUFFAL, WHO HAS ACTED INFORMALLY IN ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY FOR PAYING DEBTS OF UN-MANNED U.S. EMBASSY IN MALABO, MUCH LESS CLEAR. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH CONSUL CLARKE IN DOUALA ON 14 FEBRUARY (CLARKE WENT TO MALABO ON PLANE WHICH BROUGHT NAUFFAL OUT FOLLOWING EXPULSION), NAUFFAL INDICATED THAT HE WAS SENT OUT BECAUSE "HE WAS TOO CLOSE TO SPAINARDS," BUT THAT HE FELT THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN. NAUFFAL WAS BORN IN RIO MUNI, HAS EVIDENTLY LARGE BUSINESS INTERESTS ON BOTH ISLAND AND

MAINLAND AND ALSO ALLEGEDLY HAS HAD CLOSE BUSINESS TIES WITH PRESIDENT MACIAS.

6. SPANISH AMBASSADOR MUCH LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POSSIBILITIES MAINTAINING ANY FORM OF PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH GUINEANS THAN LAST REPORTED. HE STATED THAT NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT NOT PLEASED WITH TRENDS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND INDICATED THAT IT WOULD NOT TAKE MUCH MORE IN THE WAY OF HARASSMENT TO FORCE DECISION TO CLOSE DOWN ENTIRELY ALL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. SPANISH AMBASSADOR URGOTI
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TOLD DOUALA CONSUL CLARKE ON 14 FEBRUARY THAT THERE ARE NOW ONLY 410 SPANISH LEFT IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA, AND THAT HE INTENDED TO INFORM THOSE IN BATA THAT THERE IS LITTLE THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT CAN DO TO PROTECT THEM, HOPING THAT AS MANY AS POSSIBLE WOULD LEAVE.
MOORE

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